



Final conference for the rEUsilience project

The State of Family Resilience in Europe Today: new evidence to support policy reform

rEUsilience (Risks, Resources, and Inequalities: Increasing Resilience in European Families) is a European research project funded by the EU under the Horizon Europe programme and the UK through Innovate UK which has developed new evidence regarding how families respond when they are faced with socio-economic shocks and major decisions regarding managing family life and securing a decent income.

Research has been conducted across six countries by a set of key experts and scholars from Stockholm University, University of Oxford, KU Leuven, COFACE Families Europe, University of Zagreb, University of Warsaw, and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

rEUsilience employs a diverse methodology which includes focus groups with over 300 family members, statistical analysis of European data, critical policy analysis and more. This valuable stocktaking research is complemented by evidenced-based policy reforms, roadtested directly through our Policy Lab, a unique endeavour consisting of stakeholder panels: one made up of family representatives from the national level and another of European policy experts. The resultant discussions and policy proposals are validated through policy micro-simulations and other exercises to evaluate the feasibility of reforms.

Conference Objectives:

- **Showcase research findings:** present key empirical findings and critical approaches from the research undertaken.
- **Share evidence-based policy recommendations:** inform key stakeholders of recommendations for policy reforms to better support families.
- **Support policy learning for key stakeholders:** facilitate take up of policy recommendations and networking for impact between European and national policymakers, civil society, social partners, and researchers.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No Project 101060410 and Innovate UK, the UK's Innovation Agency.



Programme Friday 27th June 2025

Martin's Brussels EU Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels

9.00-9.30 **Registration and coffee**

9.30-9.40 **Welcome**

Elizabeth Gosme, Director, COFACE Families Europe

Giuliana Sicolo, Project Officer, European Commission

9.40-10.10 **Introduction to the rEUsilience project**

This session will introduce the project and its key empirical findings, mapping the accumulation of learning and conclusions about family resilience.

Rense Nieuwenhuis, Project joint coordinator, Stockholm University

Mary Daly, Project joint coordinator, University of Oxford

10.10-10.40 **The state of family resilience in Europe today: Kick-start keynote interventions examining social policy from a family resilience lens**

rEUsilience researchers will concisely introduce key findings from the research, whilst contributing key insights for future policy development.

1. **Compounded risks facing families across Europe: responding to families' everyday realities of risks, resources, and inequalities** (Anna Kurowska, University of Warsaw)
 2. **Back to universalism: what can a universal approach contribute to family resilience?** (Wim Van Lancker, KU Leuven)
 3. **Packaging policies for all families: how do we move towards a comprehensive system of support?** (Ivana Dobrotić, University of Zagreb)
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10.40-11.10 **Ask the researchers**

Question and Answer session, allowing participants to directly engage with the research and policy discussions presented in the morning sessions.

Moderator: Trudie Knijn, University of Utrecht and rEUsilience advisory board member



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11:10- 11:30 **Coffee break**

11.30-13.00 **Deep dive parallel sessions: key areas of policy recommendations**

This session will allow participants to delve into a key policy area, beginning with a 15-minute presentation by a rEUsilience researcher which will lay out specific evidence and policy recommendations, followed by an extended guided dialogue with participants designed to facilitate policy learning and to support informed policymaking.

Key questions for discussion:

- How is this relevant to your country or area of influence?
- What can your country learn from these recommendations?
- What can you do to support the take up of these recommendations in your sphere of influence?

Room 1: Better income support for families with children with a particular concern for low-resourced families (Wim Van Lancker, KU Leuven and Margarita León, Autonomous University of Barcelona)

Room 2: Closing the childcare gap (Ivana Dobrotić, University of Zagreb and Anna Matysiak, University of Warsaw)

Room 3: Putting in place a comprehensive set of family support services (Mary Daly, University of Oxford and Merve Uzunalioglu, University of Oxford)

13.00-14.00 **Lunch break**

14:00-15.00 **Deep dive parallel sessions: key recommendations at EU level**

This session aims to allow participants to focus on one of the key areas of policy recommendations for the EU level.

Room 1: EU Household data: gaps and opportunities for measuring family resilience (Speakers: Alžběta Bártová, KU Leuven and Max Thaning, Stockholm University, Reaction by Maria Calle-Garcia, Chair of the Indicators' Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee)

Room 2: The need to bring countries together to review integrated family support models across Europe: a proposal for an EU peer review (Speaker: Holly Shorey, Senior Project and Advocacy, COFACE Families Europe, Reaction by Tatjana Katkić Stanić, Director, Croatian Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy)

Room 3: How can the European Social Fund Plus help boost funding for family support (Speaker: Elizabeth Gosme, Director, COFACE Families Europe)



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15.00-15.20

Coffee break

15.20-16.20

Panel plenary session on what upcoming EU policy developments and initiatives can improve family resilience

This session aims to discuss what upcoming and existing EU policy developments and initiatives can take forward family resilience. Key developments include the revision of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, the new EU Gender Equality Strategy, and the next EU budget. The panel is made up of key stakeholders working to shape the future of these policy frameworks.

Stefan Iszkowski, Team Leader European Child Guarantee, DG EMPL, European Commission

Marta Pompili, Policy Officer, Equinet Europe

Réka Tunyogi, Acting Secretary General, Social Platform

Moderator: Sven Iversen, Vice President COFACE Families Europe, AGF Germany

16.20-16.30

Closing, thanks, and next steps for family resilience in Europe

Rense Nieuwenhuis, Stockholm University, and Mary Daly, University of Oxford



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